Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No. In fact, with regard to steel, we have been in correspondence with the Controller of Stores to allow us to make these purchases and we have been negotiating about this at the time.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Are these materials in any way inferior because they are supplied by Mr. A. Shanmukham?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Oh! no.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether in view of the fact that the proposal of the construction of the High Court buildings has been dropped they will sell these cement sheets?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We want these cement sheets for other purposes.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Was any officer appointed in the Public Works Department for purposes connected with the construction of these buildings?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether tenders were invited for the purchase of these asbestos sheets?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We consulted different agents who are dealing in these asbestos sheets.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether any advertisement was published with regard to this?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We have been in correspondence with all the firms dealing in these materials?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will you please give me names of half a dozen such firms?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I want notice.

CENTRAL JAIL—ACCOMMODATION—CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS

41. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any buildings for additional accommodation in the Central Jail have been constructed or are under construction in 1116 with the allotment of Rs.15,000 made in the Public Works Budget *(Please vide Huzur file P.W. 4. 16950/15)*;

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(*b*) whether the buildings referred to in (*a*) are prisoners' cells;

(*c*) the number of rooms that will be provided for by the present construction;

(*d*) the number of prisoners (criminal only) now shut up in the Central Jail;

(*e*) the number of prisoners on 1st Chingam 1112; 1st Chingam 1113; 1st Chingam 1114; 1st Chingam 1115 and 1st Chingam 1116?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Buildings for providing additional accommodation in the Central Jail are under construction.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) 56.

(*d*) The lock-up of convicted prisoners on 22nd Mithunam 1116 (6th July 1941) was 373.

(*e*) 251; 232; 223; 279 and 349 respectively.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know whether more than one prisoner are locked up in one and the same room.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know the maximum number of prisoners locked up in one and the same room?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I said, about three people are locked up.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the Government aware that the Central Jail has no accommodation for all the inmates jailed there?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Government have realised the fact that the number of convicts in the Central Jail have out-grown the accommodation and that is the reason why they are extending the buildings. The Government are constructing 56 more cells.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know how many are closed in one cell? I pause for an answer from the Hon'ble Member for Law.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* How can I say that. It is not a matter connected with law.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I want to know whether they are over-crowded.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* That has already been answered by the Engineering Member by saying that, on occasions about three persons are closed in one and the same cell.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that there is no sufficient accommodation in our Jail and that there is over-crowding there?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is the very reason for constructing additional buildings.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will the proposed additional accommodation be sufficient to cope with the demand?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There are at present 373 prisoners. The present accommodation is about 120 and the increase of 56 cells will make the total accommodation 176. It would fairly well suffice for the present strength of convicts in the Central Jail.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the number intended to be accommodated when the Jail was built?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Are not these rooms intended for single prisoners?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I think they are intended for two persons.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Were they not originally intended for one?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No.

A. R. P.—CONTRACTORS & EXPENDITURE

42. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government be pleased to state whether contractors have been appointed in the scheme of Air Raid Precautions, and if the answer is in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the expenditure incurred on this account?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Honorary contractors are selected. No expenditure is incurred on this account.

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